



Nature Classes

Registration now available online. See pages 34 and 35 for registration information. All classes will be held at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center unless otherwise noted. For additional information, please call the Naturalist staff at 703.746.5559.

Nature Camps!

For additional information on Spring and Summer nature camps, see pages 23 and 29.

Little Adventures

Ages 3-5. Children and their parents are invited to explore the world of nature through a series of programs developed just for them. We'll play games, do crafts, hike through the forest, and much more! Siblings welcome. Fee covers cost of all three sessions.

131201-01 F 10:30-11:30am 4/8, 5/13, 6/10 3 \$15 BUDEF

April

Rainforest Ramble

Ages 8-12. The rainforest provides so much for the earth: oxygen, amazing wildlife, and food products such as chocolate! We will learn about this incredible ecosystem where many of our beautiful songbirds spend the winter months and make our own rainforest jewelry from tagua nuts. Live rainforest animals are featured!

131202-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 4/9 1 \$4 BUDEF

Spring Festival

Ages 5 & up. Join us as we celebrate spring! Nature crafts, games, activities and an egg hunt (with lots of candy) will be part of this fun afternoon festival at the Ford Nature Center. Families welcome.

131203-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 4/16 1 \$4 BUDEF

Earth Day Festival

Family. Join the Naturalist staff at Ben Brenman Park (Samuel Tucker Elementary if raining) to celebrate Alexandria's Earth Day. Lots of family fun and activities... see you there!

Sa 10am-2pm 4/30 1 FREE

May

Sounds of Spring

Ages 4-8. Spring comes alive with so many sounds. We'll hike the trail using our senses to interpret the sounds made by frogs, toads, birds and other forest creatures. We will end our acoustic experience by making a recycled rain stick to mimic spring's showers. Min 6/Max 12

131204-01 Sa 10am-11:30am 5/7 1 \$4 BUDEF

The Eggs are Hatching

Ages 3-6. Eggs come in many sizes and colors. Children will learn about baby animals that hatch from eggs while exploring signs of spring in Dora Kelley Nature Park. They will then make their own egg-carton creatures to take home. Min 6/Max 12

131205-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 5/14 1 \$4 BUDEF

Turtle Walk

Family. Bring the little ones to learn about a very special creature, the Eastern Box Turtle. We'll learn all about the life of these small, yet fascinating, reptiles and go on a hike to look for turtles. This program features a cute turtle craft. Min 6/Max 12



131206-01 Sa 10am-11:30am 5/21 1 \$4 BUDEF

The Lorax Speaks!

Ages 6-12. Trees are a vital part of life on earth. This delightful animated video is about a conservation-minded creature who fights to save the forest. After viewing the video, we'll go on a hike through Dora Kelley Nature Park to identify some of the trees in our native woodlands and learn their unique role in nature. Min 6/ Max 12

131207-01 Sa 10am-11:30am 5/28 1 \$3 BUDEF

June

Discover the Marsh

Ages 6-12. Journey to the freshwater marsh in Dora Kelley Nature Park and learn about its many inhabitants, big and small. Participate in a critter catch and release. Also, create a cool field guide to take home. Min 6/Max 12.

131208-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 6/4 1 \$4 BUDEF

Rocks and Fossils

Ages 6-12. Travel back in time. Search the ancient gravels of Holmes Run for fossil specimens that date back several hundred million years! Fun for both children and parents... and great way to start a fossil collection. Min 6/Max 12.

131209-01 Sa 10am-11:30am 6/11 1 \$5 BUDEF

Forest Communities

Ages 8-12. Explore the forest community of Dora Kelley Nature Park. Learn about the ecology of the forest and its food-chains, and discover what lies within and beneath "forest litter". A fun food-chain craft will follow. Min 6/Min 12

131210-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 6/18 1 \$4 BUDEF

Nature Classes

Butterfly Safari

Ages 4-12. Learn about the magical life cycle of butterflies with volunteer Naturalist Mary Alexander. Discover butterflies that live in the local area, learn how to attract them to your backyard, and take home seeds for your own butterfly garden. Program features a butterfly craft workshop. Min 6/Max 12

131211-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 6/25 1 \$4 BUDEF



July

Insects

Ages 12 & up. Join volunteer Naturalist and local insect enthusiast Peter Edelman on a hike through Dora Kelley Nature Park to get "up close and personal" with local insect life. Catch and release session featured (nets and equipment provided). In lieu of a program fee, participants may donate to the Ford Nature Center via "The Living Landscape Fund". Call the Naturalist staff at 703-746-5559 for more information. Min 6/Max 20

141201-01 Sa 10:30am-12pm 7/9 1 FREE BUDEF

Keeping Cool

Ages 6-12. Animals use many tactics to survive the dog days of summer. How do they beat the heat? In this class we will learn the different ways animals stay cool. Then, we will cool off with a popsicle and ice cold lemonade snack. Min 6/Max 12

141202-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 7/16 1 \$4 BUDEF

August

Seeds: Watch it Grow

Ages 4-7. How does your garden grow? In this class children will investigate the different types and hidden life inside of seeds. Then, we will hike into Dora Kelley Nature Park on a seed hunt. Participants will be able to plant their own window vase terrariums to take home and watch grow.

141203-01 Sa 10am-11:30am 8/6 1 \$5 BUDEF

Bee Friendly

Ages 6-12. How much do you know about the life of bees? Learn about the importance of these insects in our lives and their role in nature. Make a honeycomb candle and participate in some honey tasting as well.

141204-01 Sa 2-3:30pm 8/13 1 \$4 BUDEF

Animal Defenses

Ages 4-8. Will it be flight or fight? Join us for fun while learning all about the different ways an animals' adaptations help them survive. We'll take a look at fangs, claws, protective coverings and the strategies animals use in order to keep predators away.

141205-01 Sa 10am-11:30am 8/27 1 \$4 BUDEF

Fee Assistance Program for City Residents

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities encourages participation in City programs from all City residents. If you, a member of your family or a friend would like to participate in programs or activities sponsored by this Department and are in need of fee assistance in order to participate, please contact the sponsoring program office for more detailed information at least two weeks in advance. For general information, please call 703.746.4343 or (TTY) 703.838.4902.

Alexandria Farmers' Markets

Enjoy the season's fresh fruits, vegetables, baked goods, and more at Alexandria's farmers' markets! The King Street Fresh Farmers' market is open on Wednesdays to serve weekday shoppers. On weekends, the Market Square and Del Ray



markets are year round on Saturdays; the West End Farmers' Market and the Four Mile Run Farmers' and Artisans Market are open on Sundays. For additional information, visit alexandriava.gov/FarmersMarket.